

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 AF-10 IO-13
SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 /076 W
-----061821Z 053322 /42
O P 061629Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1241
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

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STATE EUR FOR WE
USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PO, US, OVIP, (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJ: MONDALE LISBON VISIT - PRESS QUESTIONS

REF: MELTON/SMITH TELECON 5/5/77

1. LOCAL PRESS INTEREST ON VISIT IS VERY HIGH. ARRIVAL MEETING WITH PRESS WILL BE WELL-ATTENDED, ALTHOUGH MAJOR LISBON NEWSPAPERS DO NOT PUBLISH ON SUNDAY. RADIO, TV, AND OPORTO NEWSPAPERS -- WHICH DO PUBLISH ON SUNDAYS -- WILL MAKE IMMEDIATE USE OF STATEMENTS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. SUGGESTIONS ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

2. PROBABLE PRESS QUESTIONS:

3.Q. WHY ARE YOU IN LISBON?

A. THIS IS A WORKING VISIT, IN WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES -- IMPORTANT TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES -- ABOUT WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER AND I BEGAN TALKING WITH PRIME MINISTER SOARES
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WHEN HE WAS IN THE UNITED STATES LAST MONTH.

4.Q. WHICH TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED?

A. OUR AGENDA WILL TOUCH ON PORTUGAL'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM AND HOW THE UNITED STATES CAN CONTINUE HELPING THAT PROCESS. WE ARE LIKELY TO DISCUSS PORTUGAL'S PARTNERSHIP IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND ITS PLANS FOR

A FULLER INTEGRATION INTO WESTERN EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH THE UNITED STATES FULLY SUPPORTS. I AM CERTAIN WE WILL DISCUSS SOME INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT, EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIPS, AND DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OF COURSE, I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT OUR TALKS LATER ON.

5.Q. A FEW DAYS AGO WE WERE READING THAT PRESIDENT EANES INVITED PRESIDENT CARTER TO VISIT PORTUGAL. NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME, DOES THAT MEAN PRESIDENT CARTER IS UNLIKELY TO VISIT PORTUGAL FOR QUITE A LONG TIME?

A. PRESIDENT CARTER WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE INVITATION, AND HE WILL COME TO PORTUGAL AT THE EARLIEST TIME HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS. AS YOU KNOW PRESIDENT CARTER MET WITH PRES. EANES LAST WEEK IN LONDON.

6.Q. ARE YOU MEETING AMBASSADOR YOUNG HERE? WHY?

A. DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE.

7.Q. WILL YOU BE DISCUSSING RENEWAL OF THE LAJES BASE AGREEMENT WHILE HERE?

A. I DO NOT EXPECT THIS WILL BE RAISED ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES LOOKS FORWARD TO A NEW AGREEMENT.

8.Q. DOES THE U.S. REALLY THINK PORTUGAL HAS ANY VALID NATO ROLE?

A. INDEED WE DO. THE SOUTHERN FLANK IS STRATEGICALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT. MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE INDEPENDENT MIXED PORTUGUESE BRIGADE WITH A NATO MISSION CAN MAKE A SPECIFIC, IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION.

9.Q. THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF RECENTLY MADE A STATEMENT INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER NATO PARTNERS WERE SLOW IN DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT NEEDED TO MODERNIZE THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE? WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

A. OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST IN THE FORCE MODERNIZATION IN PORTUGAL IS FIRM. WITH RESPECT TO THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE, WE HAVE LOANED SIX SUPERSONIC T-38 AIRCRAFT. THE SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION, RECENTLY APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32.25 MILLION, PROVIDES FUNDS FOR C-130 AIRCRAFT PLUS SPARES. THIS OVERALL TOPIC WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING MY VISIT.

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10.Q. MOTA AMARAL, LEADER OF THE AZORES REGIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE STATES RECENTLY. THIS VISIT AND OTHER EVENTS INDICATES THE UNITED STATES IS DEVELOPING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT PART OF PORTUGAL. IS THIS APPROPRIATE, OR HEALTHY?

A. THE UNITED STATES IS BEING SUPPORTIVE IN EVERY WAY IT CAN OF PORTUGUESE INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY. A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION OF PORTUGUESE DESCENT IN THE UNITED STATES HAS COME FROM THE AZORES AND THAT GIVES SOME OF OUR CITIZENS SPECIFIC INTERESTS IN THE AZORES -- WHICH IS TO BE EXPECTED. BUT THESE RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD ONLY REINFORCE OUR FORTH-RIGHTLY EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MAINTAINING STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONS.

11.Q. RECENTLY PRESS REPORTS SAID THE USG WAS SCALING DOWN ITS LOAN PROPOSAL TO PORTUGAL FROM \$550 TO \$300 MILLION. IS THAT TRUE?

A. NO. SOME MISLEADING STATEMENTS HAVE APPEARED RECENTLY INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REDUCED HIS REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. WHILE \$550 MILLION WAS MENTIONED AS A TARGET FIGURE FOR
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U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL LENDING DURING A

THREE-YEAR PERIOD, THE FIGURE FOR THE FIRST YEAR HAS ALWAYS BEEN \$300 MILLION. THE U.S. CONGRESS CONSIDERS FUNDING ONLY ON A ONE-YEAR BASIS, AND IT CURRENTLY HAS BEFORE IT A \$300 MILLION REQUEST FOR THE FIRST YEAR.

12.Q. THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE HUMAN RIGHTS A KEY ISSUE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. BUT AREN'T YOU INTERFERING IN OTHER COUNTRIES' INTERNAL AFFAIRS? AND, ANYHOW, ISN'T THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?

A. NO. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS EMPHASIZED THAT NO MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS CAN CLAIM THAT VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY PROTECTED HUMAN RIGHTS IS SOLELY ITS OWN AFFAIR. OUR POLICY IS TO BE APPLIED WITHIN OUR OWN SOCIETY AS WELL AS ABROAD. WE WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM, AT THE SAME TIME AS WE FRANKLY STATE OUR OWN VIEWS.
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